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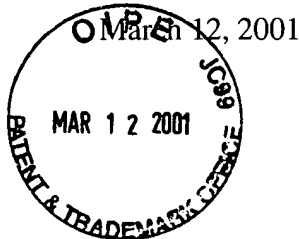
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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/076,115; Filed: May 12, 1998
For: **Methods for Production and Purification of
Nucleic Acid Molecules**
Inventors: Gruber *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.4350001/RWE/BJD

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1) (*in duplicate*);
2. Fee Transmittal Form PTO/SB/17 (*in duplicate*);
3. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111;
4. Third Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and Fee Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (*in duplicate*);
5. Form PTO-1449 (3 pages);
6. Eleven (11) cited references;

Commissioner for Patents
March 12, 2001
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7. Our Check No. 30624 for \$570.00 to cover:
\$390.00 Filing fee for two-month Extension of Time;
\$180.00 Fee for Third Supplemental IDS; and
8. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Brian J. Del Buono
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BJD/mka
Enclosures